

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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CMAAG BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: GDS, 12-31-79
TAGS: NATO, MCAP, LU
SUBJECT: DRC MULTILATERAL EXAMINATION - LUXEMBOURG

REF: USNATO 4186

SUMMARY. DRC ON OCTOBER 25 REVIEWED LUXEMBOURG 1974-78 FORCE PLANS AS PRESENTED IN LUXEMBOURG RESPONSE TO DPQ(73). CHAIRMAN DESCRIBED LUXEMBOURG DEFENSE EFFORT AS BEING MODEST, ESPECIALLY IN ECONOMIC TERMS; HE ALSO CITED LUXEMBOURG WILLINGNESS TO DEPLOY ITS INFANTRY BATTALION OUTSIDE NATIONAL BOUNDARIES. DISCUSSION CENTERED ON ANTI-TANK AND AIR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT PLANS, MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH EQUIPMENT PLANS, AND DEPLOYMENT PLANS FOR INFANTRY BATTALION. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING DRC EXAMINATION OF LUXEMBOURG FORCE PLANS, US REP (CLINARD) NOTED THAT MILITARY CONTRIBUTION LUXEMBOURG MAKES TO NATO IS IMPORTANT, PARTICULARLY IN POLITICAL TERMS, CITED PLANNED REAL TERM INCREASES IN DEFENSE SPENDING, AND ENCOURAGED LUXEMBOURG TO AUGMENT ITS MODERNIZATION PROGRAM. LUXEMBOURG REP CONFIRMED HIS COUNTRY IS PROCURING TOW AND SAID THERE WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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NO TOW MAINTENANCE PROBLEM FOR ITS INFANTRY BATTALION IF IT WAS EMPLOYED IN NORTHERN REGION, PROVIDED DENMARK AND NORWAY ALSO PROCURE TOW. DANISH REP SAID TOW IS BEING PROCURED; NORWEGIAN REP SAID HIS AUTHORITIES WILL MAKE A DECISION THIS YEAR ON TOW

OR MILAN. FOR AIR DEFENSE, LUXEMBOURG REP SAID HIS COUNTRY PLANNED TO BUY A REDEYE/BLOWPIPE TYPE LOW-LEVEL AIR DEFENSE WEAPON SYSTEM, BUT NO FINAL DECISION WOULD BE TAKEN UNTIL DENMARK AND NORWAY MADE A WEAPONS CHOICE. LUXEMBOURG REP HOPED THAT THE THREE COUNTRIES WOULD PROCURE THE SAME WEAPONS SYSTEM. DANISH REP SAID DENMARK IS ACQUIRING REDEYE; NORWEGIAN REP SAID A DECISION WOULD BE MADE NEXT YEAR.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM NORWEGIAN REP, LUXEMBOURG REP REITERATED THAT HIS COUNTRY WILL NOT PROCURE EQUIPMENT NOR TRAIN INFANTRY BATTALION FOR ARCTIC WARFARE BUT THAT LUXEMBOURG IMPOSES NO OTHER LIMITATION ON WHERE IN NATO AREA INFANTRY BATTALION CAN BE DEPLOYED. LUXEMBOURG REP INSISTED AND DRC AGREED THAT EVEN IF BATTALION COULD NOT BE BENEFICIALLY DEPLOYED IN NORTH NORWAY, IT COULD BE USEFULLY DEPLOYED ELSEWHERE IN NATO'S NORTHERN REGION.

3. OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST THAT EMERGED FOLLOW:

A. WAR RESERVES FOR EXISTING EQUIPMENT IS HELD AT MORE THAN 90 DAYS; STOCK LEVELS FOR NEW MISSILES ARE EXPECTED TO BE ABOUT 30 DAYS;

B. NBC EQUIPMENT IS ALREADY ON HAND AND IS BEING MODERNIZED; AND

C. OFFICER RECRUITMENT STILL POSES A PROBLEM, BUT ENLISTED VOLUNTEERS (LAST MONTH) EXCEEDED ARMY REQUIREMENTS. IN THIS REGARD, CHAIRMAN CONCLUDED DRC REVIEW BY ASKING WHY LUXEMBOURG COULD NOT MEET NATO FORCE GOALS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL RIFLE COMPANY FOR ITS INFANTRY BATTALION.

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